

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A probe carrier ~~on which comprising a carrier and probes immobilized thereon as a plurality of spots, said probes being~~ capable of specifically binding to a ~~plurality of target substance are immobilized as a plurality of spots in known locations on the carrier, characterized in that substances, wherein the probe carrier has a reaction region for reacting said probes with the target substances, said reaction region comprising~~ two or more ~~separated independent areas separated from each other, wherein in each area probes of the same kind are immobilized as one or more spots and probes of different kinds are not immobilized and, wherein in at least one area probes of the same kind are immobilized as two or more spots, and wherein the two or more areas immobilize different amounts of probes depending on the target substances to be reacted with the probes immobilized in the areas.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The probe carrier according to ~~claim 2 claim 1,~~ wherein the ~~plurality of two or more~~ areas are aligned in a first direction and adjacent areas are separated in a direction vertical to the first direction.

5. (Original) The probe carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the number of the immobilized probe molecules per spot is practically equal among all kinds of probes.

6. (Currently Amended) The probe carrier according to claim 1, wherein ~~the probe~~ each of the immobilized probes is a nucleic acid.

7. (Original) The probe carrier according to claim 6, characterized in that the number of the immobilized probe molecules per spot is of the same order to the lowest number of mRNA molecules of a target gene present in a sample.

8. (Currently Amended) The probe carrier according to claim 7, characterized in that the number of spots in each of the areas is proportional to an average amount of expression, in a human, of the target gene having a sequence complimentary to the probe.

9. (Currently Amended) The probe carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the amount of immobilized probes ~~immobilized~~ varies between different areas.

10. (Original) The probe carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that application of probes to be immobilized is performed by an ink jet method.

11. (Currently Amended) The probe carrier according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, characterized in that the number of spots in each of the ~~area differ~~ areas differs 100 to 1000 times between ~~the a maximum number of spots and the a minimum number of spots~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The probe carrier according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein the two or more areas have [[an]] a same area.

13. (Original) The probe carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier is a tape.

14. (Original) The probe carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier is a plate substrate.

15. (Withdrawn) A method of evaluating a content of a target substance in a solution using a probe carrier on which probes capable of specifically binding to the target substance are immobilized in predetermined locations on the carrier, the method comprising the steps of:

preparing a probe carrier having two or more areas separated each other on the carrier, wherein in each area probes of the same kind are immobilized as one or more spots and probes of different kinds are not immobilized and in at least one area probes of the same kind are immobilized as two or more spots;

contacting the carrier with the solution to bind the target substance to the probes; and

measuring the intensity of signal related to the target substance bound to the probes.

16. (Withdrawn) The evaluation method according to claim 15, wherein the content of the target substance in the solution is evaluated by adding up the signal intensity in the areas.

17. (Withdrawn) The evaluation method according to claim 15, wherein the addition of the signal intensity is performed with a line sensor or an area sensor.

18. (Withdrawn) The quantification method according to claim 15, wherein the amount of probes immobilized on the probe carrier is made different respectively, depending on the kind of the probe.

19. (Withdrawn) The evaluation method according to claim 15, wherein two or more kinds of target substances in the solution are evaluated.

20. (Withdrawn) The evaluation method according to claim 15, wherein the amount of probes immobilized on the probe carrier is fixed, respectively, at 1.0 to 2.0 times as much as the amount expected for the target substance in the solution.

21. (Withdrawn) The evaluation method according to claim 15, characterized in that the probe carrier is a tape, wherein the step of contacting comprises

the step of contacting part of the probe carrier with the solution and the step of sequentially changing the contact part with the solution by relatively moving the carrier.